

# Montana State Senate



**SENATOR FRED THOMAS**  
SENATE

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*The Big Sky Country*

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RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As the Montana state senator representing Senate District 44, I am pleased to support the pending transaction involving Charter Communications' merger with Time Warner Cable and its acquisition of Bright House Networks.

My constituents in Senate District 44 have identified broadband availability as one of the most important issues they confront. I believe the best way to create a vibrant market for broadband services is to provide a marketplace where private providers may compete for our consumer dollars, thereby stimulating investment and growth. Government should facilitate such private investment and not stand in the way.

In Montana, we are doing just that. Recently, the Montana State Land Board approved an easement for the deployment of advanced broadband services through state land to Charter Communications so that they may build out my community of Stevensville. This is the kind of private investment we need more of in Montana. By approving the transaction in front of you, I understand that New Charter will have the capabilities to offer a minimum speed of 60 Mbps across its footprint, allowing families and businesses to enjoy the full benefits of the new broadband economy.

I applaud Charter for the commitment it has already made investing in Montana and look forward to the future possibilities that exist upon approval of this transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Thomas".

Senator Fred Thomas  
Montana Senate District 44  
1004 S Burnt Fk Road